The Library Assistant:

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 252. MAY, 1919. Published Monthly

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Eighth Meeting of the present Session will be held on **Wednesday, 14th May,** at the **Public Library, Church Street, Stoke Newington, N.16,** when **Mr. G. E. Roebuck, F.L.A.,** Chief Librarian of Walthamstow, has kindly promised to open a discussion on **"The Situation Before Us."** The business proceedings commence at 7.30 p.m., but as there is much of great interest to see in the general methods and arrangement of the Stoke Newington Public Library, members will do well to be present before that time. Two members will be elected at this meeting to audit the association's accounts for the past year. Nominations must be handed to the Hon. Secretary before the commencement of proceedings.

The Library building is situated in a very charming spot, almost adjoining Clissold Park, which some members may like to visit. In the past some exceptionally pleasant meetings have been held at Stoke Newington, and there is every reason to believe that the present occasion will prove no less interesting and enjoyable. The Mayor will be present, light refreshments will be served by kind invitation of Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, J.P., D.L., &c., Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee, at **6.30 p.m.,** and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance. Mr. Roebuck's subject is of considerable importance: all the signs seem to indicate that the Public Library Service will eventually come under the control of the Board of Education. How will that affect the Public Library Movement? In what direction will development commence? How may we best prepare for the demands likely to be made upon us? It will be seen that practically everybody is affected; therefore all library workers intelligently interested in their calling should endeavour to be present.

Those intending to be present would greatly oblige by sending a post card to Mr. G. R. Bolton, so that requisite arrangements can be made for refreshments. 'Buses Nos. 21 and 21a, from London Bridge, pass the end of Church St. at Clissold Park, No. 30 passes the Library, and No. 76, from Victoria, passes Church St. at the High St. end. Trams Nos. 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51 and 75, pass either one of the ends of Church St. already described.

Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting.—By kind permission, through Miss Prince's good offices, the Association's Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting will be held at the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, on Wednesday, 25th June. The business proceedings will be followed by a social evening, arranged as a welcome to those members who have returned from active service with the Colours. Full details will be published in our next issue.

The Ballot for Officers and Council will be revived this year, and voting papers will be sent to all members, whose subscriptions are paid, with the June number of the Journal. Nominations for President (a London member), a Vice-President (a provincial member), Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, ten London and ten non-London Councillors, must reach the Hon. Secretary, Bromley Public Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar, London, E.14, **not later than the last post on Saturday, 10th May.**

Government Grants Enabling Demobilized Men to Continue their Education.—Arising out of Mr. Bolton's letter in the last issue of *The Library Assistant*, the President of the Library Association—Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister—approached the Minister of Education in the matter, with the happy result that in the new Government Tables of Professions, etc., Librarianship will be included; in the meantime, applicants need not wait for that, and men and women desiring to avail themselves of the privilege should apply at once to the Ministry of Labour for grants to assist them in their training for the profession. This is a highly important matter, and assistants should take every opportunity for spreading the information amongst those who are likely to benefit from the arrangement. We also understand that Dr. Baker has been in communication with the authorities, and that they hold out hopes of maintenance grants to assistants who undertake a full course in librarianship for a year.

Mr. Lange's Gift.—An examination of Mr. F. W. T. Lange's generous gift to the Association's Library, has shown that the gift is even more valuable than was at first supposed. Briefly, it comprises some 508 periodicals, 455 books, and 250 pamphlets. The periodicals include bound sets of all the professional journals, and the books include most of the professional text books, etc. As soon as the services of a librarian can be secured, it is proposed to make the collection available to our members.

To South Coast Members.—Mr. Arthur Webb, Honorary Secretary of the South Branch, asks us to announce that he has returned to England and is demobilized; he will be glad to hear of any other members of the South Coast Branch who have been demobilized.

Hours at Birmingham.—We are glad to notice that the Birmingham Libraries Committee have decided to reduce the hours worked by the staff from 48 to 42 weekly, and, as far as possible, allow assistants to have three nights off duty a week instead of two.

NALGO and Ourselves.—As a result of the decision of the March General Meeting, Mr. Hill, General Secretary of the National Association of Local Government Officers, attended the April General Meeting, and explained to those present the desirability of all branches of the municipal service joining forces with a view to securing the best conditions of service. As a consequence, it was unanimously resolved that we forthwith become affiliated with the Association. Further information on the subject will appear in a future issue of our Journal.

Library Association Examinations.—The Professional Examinations will be held during the week commencing 16th June. Fee, five shillings for each section. A Preliminary Test will be held on 18th June. Fee, half a crown. Last day of entry for either, 17th May.

Donation for our Welcome.—In order that the necessary arrangements may go forward, may we request all those who have not yet done so, but who would like to contribute, however little, towards the expenses of the welcome to our returned colleagues next month, to send their contributions to Mr. Hogg at the Central Library, Battersea, as soon as possible?

Demobilized Members.—The Hon. Secretary will be pleased if members released from service with the Colours will send him a post-card informing him of the fact. It will be interesting to know of those who return to their library duties, and the record will form some kind of a check on the Roll of Honour.

Library Association Statistical Return.—We understand that the Honorary Statistician to the Library Association (Mr. G. E. Roebuck) has issued a schedule requesting certain particulars concerning the finances and work of the libraries of the Kingdom in connection with the movement on foot for securing financial assistance in some way from the Government: as it is of the utmost importance that the information should be forthcoming as soon as possible, and also that it should be fully representative, we venture to urge our readers not to overlook the matter or to defer the completion of the return. We are aware that librarians are continually being bombarded with demands for information on some point or another, and that there is consequently a tendency to neglect such inquiries, but this is altogether a different case, as it is entirely in our own interests that the present return should be filled in and promptly dispatched.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Applications invited for the appointment of **Secretary,** to conduct the organizing and general work of the Association under the direction of the Honorary Secretary, and to give editorial assistance.

The engagement, in the first place, will be for a period of two years. Salary £350 per annum. Written application only, briefly stating qualifications, with copy of not more than three testimonials, by Friday, May 23rd, 1919, to be endorsed "Secretary," and addressed to the Hon. Secretary, The Library Association, Caxton Hall, S.W. 1.

PROCEEDINGS.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL REPORT.

In submitting the 12th Annual Report, your committee, while once again deploring the restrictions put upon the activities of the Branch by the War, report that there has been an increase of members during the past year. We commenced the year with a membership of 67 (of whom 21 were with H.M. Forces), 3 members have resigned, but 8 new members have been enrolled, bringing our total membership to 72.

Four meetings have been held during the past year. At the Annual Meeting held in Leeds on February 20th, 1918, a resolution was moved that greater prominence be given to literary subjects. In pursuance of this resolution, a meeting was held at Leeds on Wednesday, May 18th, at which Miss Calam (of Leeds) gave a paper on William Morris, and Miss Lawrance (of Leeds) an appreciation of Donald Hankey.

Following the usual procedure, for the Summer Meeting the members assembled at the Bradford Central Library on the 12th June, and proceeded to Hawkesworth, the scene of the novel "Windyridge." After partaking of tea, the return journey was made through Burley Woodhead, Menston and Guiseley, where cars took the weary revellers to their desired haven.

The Fourth Meeting took place on November 7th, at Bradford. Miss Blenkinsopp and her staff welcomed the members at the Great Horton Branch, where a paper was read by Mr. G. S. Greenwood on "Some Notes on the Management of the Small Library." This was followed by a discussion. During the next few months we hope to have with us the men who have for the past four years kept our land from being ravaged by our enemies. There is a hearty welcome waiting for them, and their presence will, no doubt, be an excellent stimulant, and reinvigorate those who during their absence have, however imperfectly, kept the Association going.

The financial statement made by the Treasurer shows that the Branch finished the year with a balance in hand of £4 4s. 5d.

During the past four years it has largely been a case of holding on and marking time, but with the signing of the Armistice our view point has changed and we are eagerly looking forward to a Great Revival of activity in our Branch, and expect in the near future that more meetings and more members will "renew our youth as the eagle," and that the Yorkshire Branch will go over the top into action as in the days of yore.

OBITUARY.

†JONATHAN MERRISHAW.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. Jonathan Merrishaw, librarian of Newark-upon-Trent, formerly acting Honorary Secretary of our North Western Branch. Mr. Merrishaw received his early training at Darwen, whence he was appointed assistant in Goldsmith's Library at the University of London. He succeeded Miss Gilbert to the librarianship of Newark in April last year.

†Fellow, L.A.A.

CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS.

HAROLD GROOM, librarian-in-charge, Isleworth Branch Library, has been appointed chief librarian and secretary, Heston and Isleworth Public Libraries, in succession to the late Mr. Camplin, who was killed in action.

L. STEED, assistant, Isleworth Branch Library, has been appointed librarian-in-charge.